



U.S. Department of Justice

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## PRESS RELEASE

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**For Information Contact Public Affairs**

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### **Two Men Plead Guilty to Killing Man in Northeast Washington, D.C.**

**Washington, D.C.** - On September 1, 2009, four men pled guilty to killing James “Skinny” Carter, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today. Jamar “Rug” Tatum, 20, and Rex Pelote, Jr., 24, of Washington, D.C. , both pled guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter while Armed before the Honorable Frederick H. Weisberg of the D.C. Superior Court. Tatum and Pelote are scheduled to be sentenced on October 30, 2009.

According to evidence introduced at the defendants’ plea hearing, this killing was part of a complex series of crimes that occurred in the area of 21<sup>st</sup> Street and Maryland Avenue in Northeast Washington, D.C. From 2006 to 2008, a series of shootings and murders in this area intensified. During this period, two rival factions from this neighborhood were in conflict with one another. One group, centered in the Langston Terrace neighborhood, was “at war” with the second group, from the area of 21<sup>st</sup> Street and Maryland Avenue, N.E. On February 11, 2007, the two defendants, who were cousins and members of the Langston group, were in the area of the Langston Golf Club, when they saw a member of their rival faction. The two defendants followed the man in their car but as they drove they spotted the decedent, James “Skinny” Carter, walking alone down the street. The defendants believed that the decedent was a member of the rival 21<sup>st</sup> Street group, and also believed that the decedent was responsible for an earlier shooting in which defendant Tatum was the victim.

The defendants decided to go after James “Skinny” Carter. Defendant Tatum drove to the 2100 block of Maryland Avenue, N.E., to allow defendant Pelote to get better access to the decedent. When the decedent got close, defendant Pelote got out of the car and chased him on foot, then shot him several times with a handgun. Defendant Pelote then fled, and Defendant Tatum pulled up to a location where defendant Pelote could get back into the car. After defendant Pelote got back into the car, defendant Tatum drove away.

James "Skinny" Carter was transported to Washington Hospital Center, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds, and was pronounced dead soon thereafter. An autopsy was performed on the decedent by the D.C. Medical Examiner's Office, which determined that the manner of death was homicide and that the cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds to the body.

The Metropolitan Police Department collected evidence from the crime scene, mainly spent bullets and casings. They painstakingly analyzed these casings and bullets and linked them to various shootings and murders in the area. As a result of this evidentiary analysis, the defendants were identified as suspects, and the case was then developed through eyewitnesses.

In announcing the convictions, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips praised the work of MPD Detectives Dwayne Corbett, Darren March and Sgt. John Hayes, Officer Michael Derian, and firearm analyst Michael Mulderig. He also thanked Paralegal Ethel Gregory, of the U.S. Attorney's Office, and commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Samuel Ramer, who prosecuted the case, and Jean Sexton, who investigated the case.

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